

2nd

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRA use only

received **MAY 8 1986**

date entered

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Estate St. George Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Prince Quarter not for publication

city, town Frederiksted vicinity of congressional district

state U.S. Virgin Islands code 78 county St. Croix code 0800

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure s	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific
	N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name St. George Village Botanical Garden of St. Croix, Inc.

street & number PO Box 338

city, town Frederiksted, St. Croix vicinity of state Virgin Islands

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Lt. Governor's Office Building, King Street

city, town Christiansted, St. Croix state Virgin Islands

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

AUG 12 1986

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Estate St. George is located in Prince Quarter, St. Croix approximately 4.5 miles east of Frederiksted and north of Centerline Road. A spring flows through the estate in a course known as Mint Gut from the north-west corner of the rectangular 150 Danish acre tract towards the south-east. Estate St. George was a sugar producing estate throughout the later portion of the 18th century and the entire nineteenth century.

The St. George Historic District includes 16 acres which encompasses all known remaining structures and buildings built in conjunction with the development and operation of the sugar estate. The slave village and cemetery are on the south side of the gut and all other buildings and structures are on the north side. The district includes 17 contributing buildings and building ruins, 8 contributing structures, and 3 non-contributing buildings and structures.

St. George Historic District

Contributing Buildings

Overseer's residence
Stable shed ruins
Sugar factory ruins
Blacksmith shop
four slave/worker houses
nine slave/worker house ruins

Contributing Structures

Bake oven
Well tower ruins
Lime kiln
Dam walls
Aqueduct
Water mill foundation
Animal pens
Cemetery

Non-contributing Buildings

Manager's residence (restored)
Great Hall (modern structure incorporating two estate worker houses)

Non-Contributing Structure

Bridge (restored)

The St. George Historic District is owned and operated by the St. George Village Botanical Garden of St. Croix, Inc. The buildings and structures are part of the garden setting and include undisturbed, stabilized, and rehabilitated structures.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1733-1916 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary of District Significance

The Estate St. George Historic District documents a successful and diversified sugar estate developed in the late 18th century. The plan, construction and operation of the sugar estate are documented by the numerous buildings and structures in the historic district. These buildings and structures embody the distinctive characteristics of the type and method of construction of 18 and 19th century structures built on sugar estates. The district is also significant for its potential to yield important information on the development and operation of sugar estates on St. Croix.

Historic Development of the District

The use of the St. George Historic District area for the growing of sugar cane, if not for an early sugar works site, is suggested by the 1671 French map drawn by La Pointe. This early map indicates an English sugar works located upstream from a pond in an area drained by Mint Gut.

St. George Estate was settled by the Danes soon after the island was surveyed. The earliest known documentary evidence reveals that St. George, originally an 150 Danish acre tract, had already been developed as a sugar estate when it was acquired by Mogens Andersen and Lorentz Grundel in 1751. The annually prepared matricul lists twenty slaves working on the estate that year. An animal mill, boiling shed and distillery were soon constructed. Ownership of the estate transferred to Matthias Taarling prior to 1754 and then to his widow. By 1766 William MacDougall had purchased the estate from the widow Taarling and in turn sold it to John Heyliger in 1768. Both the 1754 and 1766 versions of the Beck map of St. Croix show an animal mill at St. George.

The Heyliger family owned St. George during the time usually referred to as the "Golden Age of Sugar" (1770-1782) on St. Croix. The Heyliger family had come to St. Croix from St. Eustatius and St. Martin and acquired considerable land. John Heyliger bought Sally's Fancy, the adjoining estate to the north, and in time it also became known as St. George. After the death of John Heyliger, the estate was passed down through the family. The estate did not prosper and when the Heyligers

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet 14

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 16 acres

Quadrangle name Frederiksted, VI

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

20	306050	1959890
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

20	306080	1959720
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

20	306000	1959750
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

20	305960	1959740
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

20	305970	1959680
Zone	Easting	Northing

F

20	305710	1959600
Zone	Easting	Northing

G

20	305700	1959650
Zone	Easting	Northing

H

20	305760	1959660
Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet 15

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 Betsy H. Bradley

organization

date March, 1986

street & number PO Box 160 Christiansted

telephone 809 773-2370

city or town St. Croix

state Virgin Islands

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Roy Adams

title Director of Planning, V.I.

date 29 April 1986

For HCERS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	
received	MAY 8 1966
date entered	

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
Historic District

Item number 7

Page 1

The Estate St. George district is clustered on both sides of Mint Cut. The dam, aqueduct, water wheel foundation and the well are located west and upstream of the sugar factory. The bridge across the gut just southeast of the factory connects with the road between the factory and the manager's and overseer's residences north and upwind of the factory. The lime kiln and animal pens to the west and blacksmith shop to the east are at the outer edges of the developed area. Near the manager's residence, the largest residence on the estate, are the bake oven and stable shed and yard.

On the south side of the gut are the slave village and cemetery. The village, which at one time included thirty-three houses was laid out in rows of houses running north/south. Several row-houses were added at the edges of the village, one at the northwest corner, one at the north edge right along the gut, and several on the east side. East of the village and south of the present entrance drive is the slave cemetery where marked and decorated graves are clustered.

Estate Architecture

All structures and buildings in the historic district are typical of late 18th and 19th century estate structures built on St. Croix. The roughly coursed masonry structures of cut and uncut rubble are typical of the type and method of construction common on St. Croix.

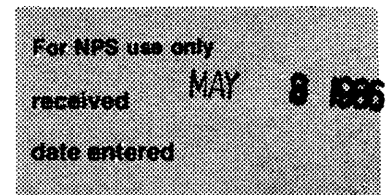
Estate structures on St. George and other St. Croix estates were utilitarian structures planned by the estate owner or manager and built by estate slaves trained as masons and carpenters. The thick masonry walls have splayed door and window openings. Although originally protected by a thin coat of lime plaster, only fragments of this covering remain. The factory ruin features ranges of arched openings typical of larger factory structures.

The workmanship and quality of the St. George buildings and structures equal or surpass that on other estates. The water control system is an unusual feature on St. Croix which required engineering expertise.

The current condition of the estate buildings and structures is also typical of sugar estate sites on St. Croix. Estate structures no longer in use, even when the estate was still functioning, were allowed to deteriorate. After sugar production ceased on the island, almost all sugar estate structures gradually fell into ruin. Many factory buildings and other structures in the west half of the island were destroyed

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District

Item number 7

Page 2

in the Fireburn worker uprising in 1878, including Estate St. George. Although many of the buildings are in a ruinous state, they still document the size, plan, construction and even existence of estate structures.

Contributing Buildings

1. The Factory Ruins

The factory ruins are the remains of the steam powered sugar and rum producing "works". During the 1850s the factory was remodeled from a wind-powered crushing operation and bagasse-fired boiling room to a steam operation with the installation of a 12 horsepower steam engine. This enlarged factory then processed cane from five estates.

The Works design resembles P.L. Oxholm's T-shaped prototype with the boiling house in the shorter intersecting wing and the rum distillery at one end of the longer wing. The St. George boiling house, an area 36' x 68', extends to the west of the longer north/south wing. Cane was brought to the east side of the boiling house and crushed by rollers on that side of the building. The factory site slopes so that two stories are exposed on the west side and bagasse carts could bring the fuel to the lower west side to feed the furnaces. Portions of the east wall of boiling house remain and have segmentally arched openings. The boiling house and furnace areas are quite deteriorated and overgrown with vegetation.

The curing house section of the Works, approximately 58' x 110', is also in ruins although the south wall rises two stories to a gable roof end. A section of the west wall at the north end also rises to the second story and has six segmentally arched openings. In the rubble in the lower story of the north portion of the curing house a narrow 36' long, braced molasses cistern is identifiable.

At the south end of the curing house is the rum distillery. An 1836 inventory of the estate lists two copper stills and worm cisterns in the still house. The worm cisterns are intact and about 20' remains of the still furnace chimney.

2. Blacksmith Shop

South of the factory ruins is the blacksmith shop, a stabilized rubble masonry building. The 18' x 28' building is punctuated by splayed door

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	MAY 8 1986
received	
date entered	

Continuation sheet Estate St. George Item number 7 Page 3
Historic District

and window openings. During the stabilization of the building evidence was found that indicated the building was once covered by a tiled hipped roof although a shed roof was added during the stabilization work. Artifacts within the building and the hearth remains documented the use of the building as the blacksmith shop.

3. Stable shed and yard

The ruins of a gable roofed rubble masonry shed, 16' x 62', are located directly east of the manager's residence. Although the north wall is divided into seven bays, this structure is undoubtedly the "extensive shed with ten roomy stalls used as a stable for horses and cart mules" listed in the 1836 inventory of the estate. A walled stable yard, 56' x 62', adjoins the structure on the east.

4. Overseer's residence

The overseer's house northwest of the factory is a two story rubble masonry structure. The overseer probably lived on the top floor while the ground floor was used as a storage area. Large masonry buttresses reinforce the building on the east, north and west sides, giving the building an unusual appearance. The rubble masonry walls of the 17' x 29' building have been stabilized and capped with concrete. A stairway near the southeast corner leads to the principal entrance on the east facade.

5-17. The Slave/Worker Village

In 1836 the slave village included thirty-three large stone Negro houses with wood floors and shingled roofs and four large houses with twenty-two apartments "just recently erected". At this time the village housed 179 Negroes.

The remains of fifteen of these dwellings indicate the plan of the slave village. The earlier, smaller houses 15' x 25', were placed in rows running north/south. Twenty-six feet separated each house from neighboring houses in all directions. The location of three rows of these houses with at least five houses in each row is discernible. There appears to have been two rows of longer row-houses on the east side of the village. The three houses in the easternmost row were placed only 20-22 feet from each other although the usual 26 feet was left between rows of houses. There is also a row-house ruin along the

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received MAY 8 1986
date entered

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
Historic District

Item number 7

Page 4

bank of the gut at the northern edge of the village and one set slightly apart to the west of the village.

Of these structures, four have been rehabilitated and roofed. Two others have been incorporated into a modern structure. The other ruins have been stabilized in varying degrees.

5. Slave House

The exterior walls of a 15' x 35' building used as a storage room have been plastered. The four by one bay building is covered with a corrugated metal shed roof, with the higher elevation on the east.

6. Slave House

A 14' x 25' slave house has been rehabilitated for use as a library. The one by three bay building has a door in the west facade; windows have wood lintels and shutters. The rubble masonry walls have been covered with lime plaster. The gable roof protected by standing gables on the north and south is covered with simulated tiles.

7. Slave House

A 15' x 24' structure has been stabilized for use as a toolshed. A shed roof covers the structure with only three standing walls; the west facade has been enclosed with wire mesh screen.

8. Slave Row-house

The row-house currently used as a nursery is probably one of four rowhouses built prior to the 1836 inventory. The 17' x 155' building is covered by a shed roof. Only the central core of the building has been rehabilitated; both ends have deteriorated into ruins.

9. Slave House ruin

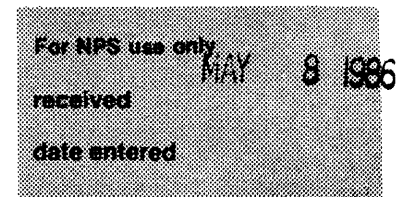
Portions of all four walls of this 15' x 25' slave house still stand. The gable end wall on the south is intact and fragments of wood lintels and window frames remain in the two windows in the west side wall.

10. Slave House ruin

The north and east walls remain standing of this 15' x 25' slave house. There is a window in the north gable end wall.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District

Item number 7

Page 5

11. Slave House ruin

Just the north and south gable end walls remain standing of this 15' x 25' slave house. There is a window in each gable end.

12. Slave house ruin

Portions of the north, south and west walls remain standing of this 15' x 25' slave house. There is a window in the south gable end only.

13. Slave house ruin

The south gable end wall of this slave house is still standing. Ghost markings indicate that the gable roof had standing gables. A portion of interior lime plaster and part of the wood window framing remains in situ.

14. Slave house ruin

The north gable end wall and short lengths of the east and west side walls are all that remain of this 15' wide house.

15. Slave row-house ruin

The two end walls and sections of the east ends of the north south side walls of this 15' x 64' long row-house remain standing. There is a window in each gable end wall.

16. Slave row-house ruin

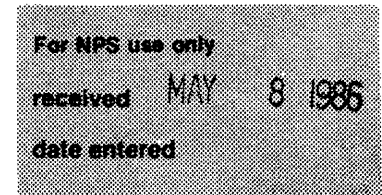
Only the two gable end walls of this 15' x 50' row-house remain standing. There are windows in each end wall.

17. Slave row house ruin

Portions of all four walls and short sections of side walls remain intact of this 16' x 20' row-house. A door in the west side of the north end suggests a two apartment unit.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District

Item number 7

Page 6

Contributing Structures

18-21. The water control system

A spring near the northwest corner of Estate St. George flows into Mint Gut and was an important water supply for the estate. In addition to supplying potable water, the water course was impounded and channelled to provide waterpower for the sugar processing operation. Dam walls (18) that indicate the location of the reservoir cross the gut at the western area of the estate compound. These rubble masonry walls stand 5-6' tall. An aqueduct (19) extends from the top of the dam and in an easterly direction along the north bank of the gut. The raised U-shaped trough 9" deep and 10" wide terminates in a 5' diameter hollow stand column from which two cast-iron pipes extend. This water storage system, as well as additional wells, ponds, storage tanks and cattle watering stations were also used during the cattle ranch era of the estate.

Associated with the water control system is the ruins of what is presumed to be a watermill (20). The deteriorated foundations of the water mill are also on the north bank of the gut between the termination of the aqueduct and a well tower. A masonry walled trough 4' wide and 6-10' deep which would have held the water mill is adjacent to a 21' square cistern like structure. The under-shot type water mill presumably complemented the windmill in providing power to crush sugar cane; by the 1840s the watermill was in poor condition, according to Royal Loan commission inventories, and apparently was not used after that time.

Just to the west of the factory ruins is the remains of a well tower (21). Approximately 6' of the uncut and uncoursed masonry walls of the approximately 9' diameter tower remain standing.

22. The lime kiln

North of the terminus of the aqueduct and higher on the bank of the gut is the ruins of the rubble masonry lime kiln built into the hillside. The approximately 10' x 10' structure features a circular cavity in the upper portion where layers of stone, shell and wood were laid. An opening in the west facade was used to start the fires and shovel out the lime. The 1836 inventory indicates that the lime kiln was being rebuilt at that time. A masonry wall extends to the east of the northeast corner of the kiln.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 11 8 1986
date entered

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
Historic District

Item number 7

Page 7

23. The animal pens

At the northwest corner of the estate compound are the rubble masonry animal pens. The outside perimeter of the double pen measures 80' x 125'; the walls extend up to 7'. Nearly all of the masonry wall remains intact although the usual interior wall dividing the pens into two halves is missing. The pens were equipped with a cattle watering system during the cattle ranch period.

24. Bake Oven

A free-standing bake oven, 8' x 8', is located east of the manager's residence. The masonry walls are 5' tall and remnants of the roof tiles are imbedded in the top of the walls. The interior has collapsed.

25. The Cemetary

The cemetary contains 34 graves marked with brick and masonry or conch shell markers and presumably additional unmarked graves. The grave sites are somewhat haphazardly arranged over an area 70' x 155' just south of the present entrance road. All of the graves are anonymous but can be assumed to be graves of Estate St. George residents; there is no other known cemetery on the estate.

Non-Contributing Buildings

The Manager's Residence

The manager's residence is just north of the factory ruins and adjacent to the bake oven, and stable shed and yard ruins. The two story building, built before 1830, has overall dimensions of 25' x 44' and is divided into five by two bays. The main residential floor is approached on the west side by a masonry staircase which terminates in a small entrance porch covered by a shed roof. Splayed door and window openings have flat arches and are filled with plank shutters. The rubble masonry walls have been repaired with modern concrete. The recent restoration of the building to provide living quarters for the garden superintendent also included alterations to the front entrance, the addition of a rear deck and a new roof; although the general form and structure of the building have not been significantly altered, the integrity of the building has been compromised.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	0 1500
received	
date entered	

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District

Item number 7

Page 8

27. The Great Hall

The Great Hall incorporates two masonry row-houses in a modern structure with a central area with prominent hipped roof and galleries along both sides of one row-house. The longer row-house on the west is inscribed with the date 1860. The shorter row-house on the east, a seven bay unit, is similar in construction. The row-houses have been little altered except for the filling in of some door and window openings.

Non-Contributing Structures

28. The bridge

A masonry bridge over Mint Gut just southeast of the factory building is a historic structure which has been substantially restored. The bridge, with a large arch now filled with a culvert, has low masonry walls with plaster caps which flare outward at both ends of the bridge.

Archeological Potential

The potential for both historic and pre-historic archeological investigation are considerable within the district. In addition to the location of some of the estate structures no longer standing, an historical archeological investigation of the site would reveal much about the operation of the estate and the occupants of the various dwellings. Although the use of the site as a botanical garden has caused some subsurface disturbance, there are undisturbed areas, notably the interior of the factory ruin.

The St. George Historic District overlaps a pre-historic occupation site primarily upstream on the banks of Mint Gut that extends into the slave village area. The full extent of the early to middle Saladoid site which has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places has never been determined and there are undoubtedly deposits in the Historic District area.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District Item number 7 Page 8A

Impact of Non-Contributing Buildings and Structures

The Great Hall, constructed in 1970, is the only building that could be considered somewhat intrusive in the historic district. The building is located along the south boundary of the district adjacent to the parking lot, an area obviously planned for modern services. The building is at the southeast edge of the known area of the slave/workers' village.

The Great Hall incorporates two 19th century rowhouses and incorporates many of the elements of traditional architecture on St. Croix. Adjacent to both rowhouses are open galleries with brick and rubble pillars supporting semi-elliptical arches. The walls of the hall area are wood double-gates filling semi-elliptical arches. The steeply pitched hipped roof is a common West Indian roof form, although the red tile covering and balustrade edged apex are modern interpretations.

While sympathetic to traditional architecture in building materials and design elements, the structure definitely reads as a modern building. Mature trees screen the prominent roof and the building is barely visible from the north side of the gut where most of the historic structures and buildings are located.

The Superintendent's House and Bridge

The bridge and superintendent's house are historic structures in their original locations and are considered non-contributing only because of extensive restoration. The two-story porch added to the north side of the superintendent's house is not visible from the sugar factory area and faces the north boundary.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	
received	8 1986
date entered	

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District Item number 8 Page 9

were not able to pay the interest due on the mortgage, the Royal Loan Commission assumed responsibility for the estate.

In 1815 Peter L. Oxholm, Governor General of the Danish West Indies, leased the estate. Nearby Estate Hope was combined with St. George, and the Hope land was used to raise provisions. Although it is difficult to determine Oxholm's impact of the estate, it is possible that the skilled engineer designed the water control system: the dam, reservoir, aqueduct, water mill and bridge. Oxholm's involvement with the estate was short-lived; he returned to Denmark in 1816 and ownership of the estate reverted to the Royal Loan Commission at that time.

The large profits experienced by most sugar estates in the earliest years of the 19th Century began to decrease as competition from larger sugar plantations in Brazil and Cuba and the European sugar beet market increased. Land values on St. Croix declined and many sugar estates went bankrupt. Frederik Oxholm, one of Peter Oxholm's two sons, became a joint owner of St. George with the Royal Loan Commission; Oxholm and the Commission owned several estates in Prince and Queens Quarters in the western half of St. Croix. Inspectors for the Royal Loan Commission made inventories of estate structures, equipment and farm animals in 1836, 1838, 1842, and 1846. Oxholm was usually an absentee owner and the estates were supervised by his managers Walker and Ratcliff.

The development of steam engines and steam powered sugar processing equipment coincided with the rise of labor costs on St. Croix after the 1848 emancipation of slaves in the Danish West Indies; steam machinery was installed on many St. Croix estates. The 1846 St. George inventory lists a "small steam machinery". By the 1850s the sugar factory had been modified and a 12 horsepower steam engine was in use to power the crushing rollers and to heat the steam clarifiers and vacuum pans.

By 1863 Frederik Oxholm and the Royal Loan Commission owned together what was probably the greatest collection of sugar estates under the control of one owner on St. Croix. Oxholm controlled St. George, Sally's Fancy, Hope, Mint, Mountain, Walberggard, Envy, and Enfield Green in Princes Quarter in addition to Diamond and Ruby, and Cane estates. Soon after Oxholm's death the estates were dispersed. Alexander Fleming, an Irish planter, purchased St. George, along with Sally's Fancy, Hope, Mint, Mountain and Walberggard, at a bankruptcy sale in 1873. Estate St. George was burned during the 1878 Fireburn labor uprising. Bankruptcy at that time was avoided, however, and a steam mill was brought from Estate River and installed later in 1878.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received 8 1986
date entered

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District Item number 8 Page 10

The cane produced on Fleming's estates was processed at the St. George works until 1916. Competition from the largest sugar central, Bethlehem Sugar Central, forced the closing of the factory. The estates then sent their cane via the railway running to Bethlehem to the Central factory. St. George was eventually sold to Bethlehem and the estate workers were transferred to the Bethlehem payroll. After 1930, when bankruptcy closed Bethlehem, St. George residents were forced to fall back on subsistence farming and the use of artisan skills to earn a living and the estate was used as a cattle ranch.

District Integrity

The integrity of the historic district is considerable in light of the turbulent history of sugar estates on St. Croix. In addition to damage done to the estate structures during the 1878 labor uprising, an adverse climate, abandonment of some buildings for up to seventy years, and hurricane winds have also furthered the deterioration of the buildings and structures in the district. Since there is no completely intact, unaltered sugar estate compound on St. Croix, the integrity of the St. George district is considerable.

The present use of the site as a botanical garden has impacted the district but has not substantially altered the significant buildings and structures in the district. All of the contributing buildings and structures have been cleared of harmful vegetation and several have been stabilized to some degree. The ability of the district to document 19th century masonry construction methods and add to the body of knowledge of sugar estate development and operation has not been significantly lessened.

District Significance

Estate St. George is a significant example of a successful and diversified sugar estate. The plan, construction and operation of the sugar estate are documented by the buildings and structures in the historic district. The district includes 17 contributing buildings and building ruins, and 8 contributing structures, all of which were listed in the 1836 inventory of the estate. Most of these buildings and structures in the estate compound are representative of those found in other estate compounds on St. Croix.

**United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered	

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District

Item number 8

Page 11

Applicable Criteria

Criterion C

The Estate St. George Historic District is eligible for National Register listing under criteria C in that the buildings and structures in the district embody the distinctive characteristics of the type and method of construction of 18th and 19th century structures on St. Croix sugar estates. The buildings and structures both illustrate common types of structures and the individuality of each estate's design. The evolution of estate structures is evident especially in the slave village. The design of the buildings and structures, building materials, and construction methods evolved from the distinctive colonial sugar estate culture.

Criteria D

The Estate St. George Historic District is eligible for National Register listing under Criteria D due to the amount of significant information the area can yield. The development and operation of sugar estates on St. Croix has not been documented to any extent and all tangible remains of these operations which contributed significantly to the history of the Danish Virgin Islands are potential sources of information.

The estate compound includes several structures which are not commonly found on other estates on St. Croix; lime kiln and bake ovens have rarely survived in identifiable form. The dam walls, aqueduct and water mill foundation are virtually unique features. The slave village at St. George, with both small individual houses and row-houses, and the estate cemetery, are important elements of the district; the lack of written documentation concerning the slave population on St. Croix estates increases the importance of these physical remains.

Areas of Significance

Archeology-Historic. The extent of the estate's archeological resources has not been fully documented. The known presence of additional structures and buildings suggests that layout of the entire compound could be determined through archeological investigation. The slave village and sugar works are two sites of particular interest to the archeologist; documentation of slave village life relies heavily on

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District Item number 8 Page 12

cultural remains. The evolution of the sugar works to accommodate the steam-powered operation could be documented via an investigation of that ruin.

Agriculture. The geographic assets influential in the choice of the site for settlement and agricultural development are still in evidence: rich soil and a fresh water supply. A sugar estate was an agribusiness operation; all success depended on a good sugar cane crop. The division of the island into rectangular sugar estates and the resultant estate compounds for housing estate inhabitants and processing the crop, was the only agricultural land use pattern on St. Croix prior to the twentieth century.

Architecture. The buildings and structures in the historic district are typical in form and construction on St. Croix and reflect the standards for construction on large, fairly prosperous estates. The documentation of building materials, masonry techniques, and building plans they provide is invaluable.

Industry. Estate St. George is a significant example of a well-diversified industrial complex which included: the cane crushing mills, the sugar works and rum distillery, a lime kiln, and a blacksmith shop. Four types of mills, powered variously by animals, wind, water and steam, were utilized as the sugar industry evolved. The sugar works, which eventually became a steam-powered operation that served a number of estates, was an important industrial site on St. Croix. The lime kiln served St. George and nearby estates, producing lime for mortar used in building construction, soil fertilizer and other uses. The blacksmith shop was a valued estate operation since the smith could produce tools and mend broken machinery and thus prevent costly delays.

Context

The Estate St. George Historic District is one of many surviving sugar estate compounds on St. Croix. Each sugar estate is a different interpretation of a typical pattern, one documented by St. George estate owner Peter L. Oxholm. Sugar production was the reason St. Croix was acquired and settled by the Danes; the establishment and operation of sugar estates on St. Croix is a significant local historical theme.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only	
received	8 1986
date entered	

Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District

Item number 8

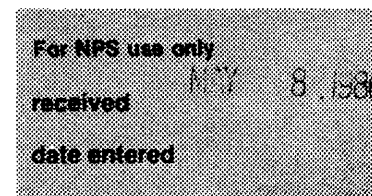
Page 13

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Estate St. George Historic District have been drawn to include all of the land currently owned by the St. George Village Botanical Garden of St. Croix, Inc. This area includes all known structures within the estate compound as well as the probable sites of additional buildings and structures no longer standing. The open areas on the northern and eastern edges of the district suggest the open fields which surrounded the estate compound during the historic period.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Estate St. George Historic District Item number 9 Page 14

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Lewisohn, Florence. St. Croix under Seven Flags. Hollywood, FL: The Dukane Press, 1970.

Maguire, James W. Geographic Dictionary of the Virgin Islands of the United States. Washington: GPO, 1925.

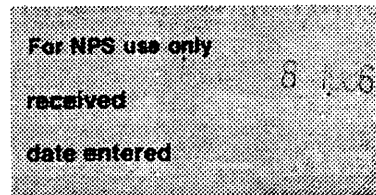
Royal Loan Commission Inventories.

Maps:

- La Pointe's 1671 map of St. Croix
- J.M. Beck's 1754 map of St. Croix
- The 1767 update of Beck's map of St. Croix
- P.L. Oxholm's 1794 map of St. Croix

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Estate St. George
 Historic District Item number 10 Page 15

Geographical Description Continued

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
I	20	305 720	19 59 850
J	20	305 790	19 59 880
K	20	305 810	19 59 870
L	20	305 960	19 59 900
M	20	305 980	19 59 880

Boundary Description and Justification

The St. George Historic District is an irregularly shaped 16 acre plot of land as shown on the enclosed plat map.

The boundaries of the Estate St. George Historic District have been drawn to include all of the land currently owned by the St. George Village Botanical Garden of St. Croix, Inc. This area includes all known existing structures within the estate compound as well as the probable sites of additional buildings and structures no longer standing. The open areas on the northern and eastern edges of the district suggest the open fields which surrounded the estate compound during the historic period.

Estate St. George
Historic District

Uncircled numbers:
contributing
buildings &
structures

Circled numbers:
non-contributing
buildings &
structures

Photographs:
Handwritten
numbers with
arrows

Scale: 1/4" = 20'

