

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUL 23 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

\* \* \*  
Coakley Bay

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

 VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

CODE

78

COUNTY

St. Croix

CODE

0800

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Christian Hendricks

STREET &amp; NUMBER

P.O. Box 361

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

— VICINITY OF

STATE

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin  
Islands**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Government House

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

STATE

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Virgin Island Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

May, 1976

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

v.i. Planning Office

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, U.S.V.I.

STATE

# 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

Coakley Bay, which lies 4.1 miles east of Christiansted, St. Croix, is an early 19th century site now in ruin comprising several buildings important to a sugar plantation--the great house, grinding mill, cookhouse, windmill for drawing water, and partial remains of structures that must have included the sugar factory.

The grinding mill, located at the northern-most point in the complex, is the typical tapering drum (or "cone") shape found on cane plantations. It is constructed of rubble masonry and ballast brick and is about 30' high with a diameter of 26'10", and three foot thick walls measured at the window openings. The mill has a series of arched openings with the main entrance to the raised grinding floor through a tall narrow arch to the south. A window is placed in the east wall. All the window openings and the entrance arch are faced on the interior and exterior, and on the inside curve of the arches with coursed, gauged brick. There is no applied ornamentation to the exterior. In the interior, recessed vertical reveals, which originally contained the top of the gears in the mill machinery, are located immediately under the top of the walls.

The great house lies about 150' to the southeast of the mill. It is a one-story building with the foundation and main floor constructed of red ballast and yellow brick. The dimensions of the rectangle are 70' by 36' with the long side of the house on the east-west axis. The house measures seven bays by four bays. The main entrance is through an enclosed porch on the south facade, with two secondary entrances located on the north and one on the west facade. The porch is enclosed by an arcaded screen wall measuring three bays with brick columns and arches. Access to the porch from the slightly lower southern grade is by a staircase with fanning walls -- the typical West Indian "welcoming arms" type. All windows and doors have flat heads, wood casings with recessed sills and no drip caps. The windows are fitted with shutters attached with hardware that includes wrought drive pintles and shutter hooks.

The interior of the house is entirely wood frame, and dates from a later stage of construction, probably the 1920's. It is not immediately evident how the original rooms were disposed in the interior, but presently there is a central hall plan with three rooms on either side, closed off on the east end by two small central rooms flanked by two larger rooms. The walls are simple wood panels serving as partitions with the tops of the panels ending short of the ceiling to provide for air circulation. The ceiling has been replaced due to hurricane damage and is currently the conventional West Indian "tray", of plank construction with sharply angled corners. The timber trusses are exposed.

THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE BASE OF A WINDMILL USED FOR CRUSHING SUGAR CANE; THE CAMP HAS BEEN REMOVED. 8/21/1946

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The early 19th century ruins at Coakley Bay are a comprehensive collection of the buildings necessary to sugar production together with a great house. The site includes some fine examples of the typical plantation buildings, among which the best preserved are the grinding mill, and a windmill for drawing water.

Coakley Bay was named for John Coakley, Sr., recorded as owner of the plantation in 1749. An earlier French name for the estate was "Grande Anse". The existing ruins probably were constructed in the early 19th century during the dominance of sugar in the Cruzan economy. A capstone dated 1810 is located on the windmill used to draw water.

The plantation probably ceased production in the late 19th century with the general decline of the sugar industry.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Larsen, Kai. "Personalia og Data". Microfilm record of research notes, ca. 1928. Royal Library, Copenhagen.

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

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7 acres

~~17° 49' 39"~~ north lat.

~~64° 38' 30"~~ west long.

UTM REFERENCES

*See continuation sheet*

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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 Stokes,

Russell Wright, Annie Hillary, Margaret Proskauer, Virgin Islands Hist.  
ORGANIZATION DATE Survey

Virgin Islands Planning Office, May 17, 1976  
STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 2606 (809) 774-1730  
CITY OR TOWN STATE

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801

# 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 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	
Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>7/23/76</u>
ATTEST	DATE <u>7-16-76</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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The Virgin Islands Government Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs is considering acquisition of the Coakley Bay site in order to establish an historic park in association with a recreation facility. The government intends to stabilize the ruins and provide an historic interpretation program.

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Ruins of a small cookhouse of rubble masonry lie to the southwest of the great house.

Other structures associated with the plantation are located along an unpaved road branching to the west from the unpaved entrance road leading to the mill and great house. The structure furthest out on the branch road, and the only one for which the original use is clearly evident, is the windmill for drawing water. It is about 20' high with an exterior staircase winding up the side to the top of the walls. There is a capstone marked "1810", and a masonry trough behind the mill that was used to water the animals of the plantation.

Near the well to the east lies a building, probably part of the factory, with only sections of wall remaining. The south wall is in the best condition and is about 10' high, of rubble masonry construction capped with brick. A continuous band runs about a foot from the top of the wall, and there is a single thick pinnacle with a pointed cap on the southeast corner. There are unidentifiable ruins across the branch road between the windmill for drawing water and the great house.

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Geographic Coordinates

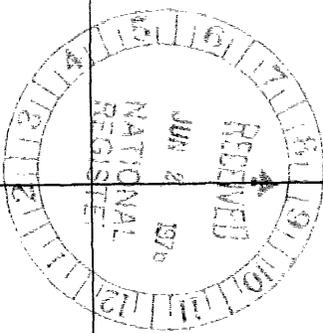
- A. 17° 45' 45" north - 64° 38' 14" west
- B. 17° 45' 34" north - 64° 38' 11" west
- C. 17° 45' 33" north - 64° 38' 42" west
- D. 17° 45' 48" north - 64° 38' 46" west

Verbal Boundary Description

The east boundary of the Coakley Bay site begins at a point 17° 45' 45" north - 64° 38' 14" west (A) and runs 1000' southeast to 17° 45' 34" north - 64° 38' 11" west (B). From here the line runs west to East End Road and continues on the north side of East End Road to a point 17° 45' 33" north - 64° 38' 42" (C), a distance of 2900'. From here the boundary runs northwest 1600' to a point 17° 45' 48" north - 64° 38' 46" west (D). From here it follows east to the beginning point of the boundary.

COAKLEY

BAY



COAKLEY BAY MILL

WIND MILL

RUINS of COAKLEY

RUINS of FAYDEN

WATER MILL

GREAT HOUSE

GARDEN

RD 230

EAST END

28.5

4.5



ESTATE COAKLEY BAY SITE PLAN