DATA SHEET

3536

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED JUN 2 1970

DATE ENTERED JUL 1 2 1976

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

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HISTORIC

La Grande Princesse School

V. fr.

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

·	NOT FOR PUBLICATION			
CITY, TOWN		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT		
Christiansted	YICINITY OF	1		
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE	
U.S. Virgin Islands	78	St. Croix	0800	

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT			AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE		COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	ВОТН	WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Government of the U.S. Virgin	Islands
STREET & NUMBER	
Government House	
CITY, TOWN	STATE
Charlotte Amalie VICINITY OF	U.S. Virgin Islands 00801
5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIO	N
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.	
Recorder of Deeds	
STREET & NUMBER	
Government House	
CITY, TOWN	STATE
Christiansted	U.S. Virgin Islands
6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SU	JRVEYS
Historic American Buildings Su	rvey
DATE	XFEDERALSTATECOUNTYLOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service	
CITY, TOWN	STATE
Washington, D.C.	

7' DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK (DNE
EXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED		SITE
XGOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

La Grande Princesse School lies north of North Road, two miles north-west of Christiansted, St. Croix. It is significant as one example of the eight schools of identical design built on St. Croix as a result of Governor-General Peter von Scholten's efforts to improve the conditions of the slaves. Construction of the school began in or soon after 1837, and was completed and the school dedicated in 1841. A festive ceremony was held on May 16 of that year at La Grande Princess building to dedicate all the schools.

The architect-builder of La Grande Princess and the other socalled "von Scholten schools" was Albert Løvmand (1827-1847), from Denmark. Løvmand received a classical education in architecture at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen before coming to the West Indies in 1832, and the design of the schools is a clear projection of his classical training.

The building is on a low hill, above the main road, and is approached by a semi-circular paved drive. It faces to the southwest, with the long axis running northwest-southeast. Constructed of rubble masonry, covered with stucco, the building is a one story rectangle, measuring 62' 2" by 37' 9" with seven bays on the long facades and three bays on the ends. As found in all the school designs, the main facade is divided into three parts: a slightly projecting central section of three bays, flanked by two sections of two bays each. Capital bands applied to the piers dividing the bays on the central section, level with the transom bars of the doors, create the illusion of engaged pilasters. The projecting foundation of the building, serves as a watertable, and varies in height from approximately one to three feet. A one foot deep band, immediately below the cornice, projecting about one inch from the wall, together with the foundation line, create a recessed panelled area of wall Masonry quoins articulate the corners. surface.

There are three entrances to the building, on the southwest, northwest and southeast facades. Means of access to the main entrance is by a stepped platform of four stairs, and on the side entrances, by two steps. On the end facades, the doors have a large masonry surround tolled to imitate quoins and radiating blocks above the semi-circular arch. All windows and doors have flat heads and are set into round arched niches. The fanlight areas above the windows are filled in with masonry, with two vertical bands of molding dividing them into three sections.

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW ___PREHISTORIC ____ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ___COMMUNITY PLANNING __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE ___RELIGION ___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC ___CONSERVATION ___LAW ___SCIENCEAGRICULTURE ___ECONOMICS __LITERATURE ___SCULPTURE X_ARCHITECTURE X EDUCATION ___MILITARY __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN1700-1799 ____ART ___ENGINEERINGMUSIC ___THEATER x_1800-1899 ___COMMERCE ___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT ___PHILOSOPHY ___TRANSPORTATION ____1900-___COMMUNICATIONS __INDUSTRY ___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT __OTHER (SPECIFY)INVENTION Albert Løvmand SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT 1841

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8 SIGNIFICANCE

La Grande Princesse was the first of eight schools built on St. Croix specifically for slave children, as part of Governor-General Peter von Scholten's program to improve the condition of slaves. On June 4, 1839, von Scholten introduced an Edict of Free Compulsory Education for Slave Children. The schools were to be operated by Moravian Missionaries for slave children between the ages of six and 13. The construction was financed in part by the planters (who were taxed in proportion to their number of slaves) and in part by Burgher Council appropriations. La Grande Princess School was opened on May 16, 1841.

Friedrich Martin, a noted Moravian Missionary-teacher, supervised the schools for slave children on St. Croix and lived and was buried next to La Grande Princess School.

La Grande Princesse is the only "von Scholten school" still in educational use, serving as a school for the retarded.

La Grande Princesse School, designed by Albert Løvmand, is a good West Indian example of traditional Danish classicism with three part front facades articulated by flat engaged pilasters, corner quoining and a molded cornice below a low parapet which encloses a typical hip roof.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Interview of Donald Swickard, Supervisor of Special Education. By Annie

Hillary, and Margaret Proskauer. May 10, 1976 Define Licht, Kjeld. Albert Løvmand and his work in the Former Danish West Indies. Journal of the Society of Architectural Historical, vol. xxl, No.3, October, 1962. Dookhan, Issac. A History of the Virgin Islands of the United States. Epping, Essex: Bowker Publishing Company, 1974 FOCP ADHICAL DATA cres

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UTM REFERENCES

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17° 45' 28" North Latitude 64⁰ 43' 53" West Longitude

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ZONE EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRI	PTION				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE COUNTY CODE CODE COUNTY CODE STATE Samuel N. Stokes **T**FORM PREPARED BY Russell Wright, Annie Hillary, Margaret Pros-NAME / TITLE kover, V.I. Historic Survey DATE ORGANIZATION Virgin Islands Planning Office May 14, 1976 TELEPHONE STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 2606 809-774-1730 CITY OR TOWN STATE Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, V.I. 00801 **IZISTATE 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 National Park Service. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE DATE TITLE Director of Planning May 25, 1976 FOR NPS USE ONLY THIS PROPERZ **LUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER** I HEREBY CERTIFY ting DATE DIRECTOR. PRESERVATION ATTEST: DATE KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892.453

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUNE 3 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE two

U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

May 1976 x State

Virgin Islands Planning Office

Charlotte Amalie U.S.V.I.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #7 PAGE One

All windows have wood casings with drip caps and lug sills, and are fitted with double wooden shutters. Hardware on the shutters includes strap hinges with heart-shaped cusps on drive pintles, and L- and bar brackets.

There is a continuous rounded cornice at the eaves and the roof is hipped, and covered with corrugated metal.

The interior plan of the school is a single main room, with two side rooms off the central section.

There is a 19th Century cookhouse, built of the same material as the school, about 50' to the northwest. It is in the form of a barrel-vaulted rectangle, with a rear chimney. There is a centrally-placed window on the southeast end, and a door on the northeast, rear facade. The interior is a single room.