

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 2 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 12 1976

**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

La Grande Princesse School

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & 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— NOT FOR PUBLICATION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

Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands

STREET & NUMBER

Government House

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie

— VICINITY OF

U.S. Virgin Islands

STATE

00801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Government House

CITY, TOWN

Christiansted

U.S. Virgin Islands

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

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

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 so-called "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 surface. Masonry quoins articulate the corners.

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.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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		

SPECIFIC DATES 1841

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Albert Løvmand

STATEMENT OF 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.

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

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 2 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 2 1976

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.